प्रसार भारती के गठन संबंधी कार्य में हुई प्रगति

*24. **श्रीमती चन्द्रकला पांडेय** : क्या **सूचना और प्रसारण** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) प्रसार भारती के गठन संबंधी कार्य में कितनी प्रगति हुई है;

(ख) क्या सरकार ने इस योजना को स्थगित कर दिया है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण है और यदि नहीं, तो इसे कब तक पूरा किए जाने की संभावना है?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) Certain changes, inter-alia, in the proposed organisational structure of the Corporation arc warranted in the light of the rapidly changing broadcasting scenario because of increased international satellite braod-casting in this part of the world. The details in this regard are being finalised. No specific time frame can be indicated at present.

श्री चन्द्रकला पांडेय : सभापति महोदय, मेरा पहला पूरक प्रश्न है मंत्री जी से, मंत्री जी ने जो उत्तर दिया है वह बातों की जलेबी पकाने के सिवा और कुछ नहीं है, अच्छा होता कि वह स्पष्ट उत्तर दे देते । जो मेरा प्रश्न था कि प्रसार भारती के गठन में कोई प्रगति नहीं हुई, सरकार ने इस योजना को स्थगित कर दिया है और आगे इस काम के पूरा होने की कोई संभावना नहीं है तो ज्यादा अच्छा होता कि आप इसका उत्तर देते । अब एक पूरक प्रश्न जो मैं करना चाहती हूं वह यह है कि क्या यह सच है कि प्रसार भारती को लागू करने से संबंधित मोडेलिटी निश्चित करते हुए सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय ने एक वर्ष पहले एक नोट प्रधान मंत्री जी के पास भेजा था जो अभी तक पी0एम0ओ0 में पड़ा है तो मैं यह जानना चाहती हूं कि क्या यह नरसिंह राव दर्शन बन कर ही रह जाएगा यह दूरदर्शन?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Sir, it is not correct to say that no progress has been made. Progress has been made. We are of the opinion that certain changes are required to make the Corporation working. Therefore, we have gone into all this, and the matter is not lying in the Prime Minister's Office. The matter is lying before the Cabinet.

श्रीमती चन्द्रकला पांडेय : महोदय, मेरा दूसरा पूरक प्रश्न मैं यह कहना चाहूंगी और मैं बड़े खेद के साथ सदन के सामने यह रखना चाहूंगी कि जिसको शंकर दयाल सिंह जी भी इस प्रकार के प्रश्न करते-करते यह दुनिया ही छोड़कर चले गए तो कम से कम उनकी अंतिम इच्छा के रूप में मंत्री जी आश्वासन दें कि प्रसार भारती बिल को जल्द से जल्द लागू करेंगे, कब लायेंगे और लागू करेंगे?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Sir, I will be very frank. I have been very frank. The Supreme Court has given a deadline of 31st December, 1995. Not the Supreme Court, but the Calcutta High Court. Sir, the High Court of Calcutta says, "the spirit and the objective of the Act should be implemented either (a) as the Act exists today or (b) with modifications' changes, as the Government may think, or (c) with a fresh legislation." So three options are given by the hon. High Court, but it should be before 31st of December. "In case the Government finds it difficult to implement this by 31st of December, then Government can come forward to the Court for extension of time with an affidavit." I think, it will not be possible for us to keep the deadline of 31st December and, therefore, I have decided to seek time from the hon. High Court through an affidavit.

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Sir, while I' welcome the enthusiasm and dedication of the new Minister, I think he has himself pertinently raised two or three issues. One is the Supreme Court judgment. It should not be viewed only in the context of date. It has to be looked at in the context of the contents of it, the main points. Secondly, the Prasar Bharati Bill, which was passed by the Parliament, has been pending before the Ministry .for five years. Thirdly, the Calcutta High Court has intervened also in the same context. Fourthly, in the same context, you find a new situation with the satellite facing you. We have discussed the CNN here and I am sad it has not been even attended to. I am sorry to say this.

Anyhow, that is not the issue. May I ask the Minister whether the type of statement which he makes means only this thing, that this Government is not going to deal with it because its end is coming and, therefore, he is passing on the baby to the next Government? Why can't he say frankly chat on the issue which is now facing the nation with the satellite, with the new type of invasion on our waves, with the new type of frontal defence which we should have built, the Government has failed and the Government has not intention of raising any defences against the external invasions?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Sir, in the main answer I have stated about the changing scenario. In fact, it was felt that certain changes were' required in the Act. The Government took the Opposition into confidence and my predecessor, before bringing the proposed changes, convened a meeting of all political parties, where Mr. Upendra, one of my predecessors, who was the author of the Bill and who piloted the Bill, himself was present. In that particular meeting it was agreed that these changes should be there. Sir, in 1974 when I was an editor of a paper I came for a Bharat Darshan at the invitation of the Government of India from the North-Eastern States and Mr. Gujaral was the I & B Minister at that time. I have a lot of respect for him for his knowledge and experience. I am talking of 1974. 1 was merely a small editor of a paper "KALRANG" when he was the Minister. He will remember that. Yes, as has been rightly pointed out, from the day when Mr. K. P. Singh Deo thought it fit to take the Opposition into confidence and convened a meeting and they agreed unanimously on certain changes, a lot of things have happened in the area of information technology. Today we are talking about satellite and cable television. Sir, we had an international conference of cable operators in Bombay and there it was discussed. The discussion was how long this cable television was going to survive. Since the technology is changing so fast in the world, cable television will not, perhaps, be able to survive more than five years from now because the latest technology is from satellite to digital system to home directly. With just a one-and-a-half feet dish antenna anybody can have it at home. In this situation, it will not be right on the part of the Government to rush with this and, therefore, I agree with you that it is not merely because we are not able to finalise it in any way. One of the reasons is that we have to see how we have to go about it. We have to be very cautious about it.

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: I am sorry for coming in. If you kindly permit me, I do not mean, at any rate, to denigrate what my hon. friend has said. The challenges which he has counted, are correct. It means more action. But the action the Government has chosen to adopt is to throw up the hands in helplessness. We cannot do anything. The *status quo* continues. Therefore, our system is unable to cope with the challenges. That is exactly what is happening. Some people have already come to you with a paper—I am already a signatory to that paper—suggesting what can be done and what should be done and these challenges should be met. The misfortune is that the replies which my hon. friend has given in writing annually only show the helplessness of the Government which is a sad thing. I may not be in the Government; I may be in the Opposition. But this is the sadness of our country that the entire country feels helpless. It cannot meet the challenge. The challenge has to be met. I am glad you have not met the challenge because you will be going out.

We will meet the challenge when we come back because the challenge has to be met.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Firstly, I would like to inform the hon. Member that we are not going out.

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह : दिल बहलाने के ख्याल अच्छे हैं ...(**व्यवधान**)

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Secondly, it is not a question of helplessness. It is a question of ground realities and how effectively we meet them. Just now the lion. Member was asking about the right to uplinking in the world. I did not answer it because this question did not relate to the main question. Then we have the Supreme Court Judgment about the right to airwaves. Sir, I was not a Member of Parliament when the Prasar Bharti Bill was passed. 1 have gone through the debate. In fact, last night I was going through the debate on CNN. I read the entire speech of Shri Gujral. In that particular debate also there was a suggestion coming from the former Infor mation and Broadcasting Minister who was the author of the Prasar Bharti Bill, saying that this is no more relevant and, therefore, we have to go in for a bigger one.....*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Because he has joined you.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Me made this statement before he joined us. And there a number of hon. Members of this House had suggested that we might go in for a broad-based comprehensive broadcasting bill which will not only include the objectives of the Prasar Bharti Act, but it will also include the right to airwaves. All these things are there. Therefore, my plea to the House is this. We all know what is happening all over the world and recently what happened to BBC, we all know. In these circumstances I don't think it would be wise for India to rush with this Bill. We must apply our mind properly and then come out with an effective measure.

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : सभापति जी, प्रसार भारती विधेयक हमारे नेशनल मीडिया को स्वायत्तता देने की दृष्टि से लाया गया था । लेकिन दल की बात है कि पिछले वर्षो में इस विधेयक को ठंडे बस्ते में डालकर सरकार ने दूरदर्शन को प्रधानमंत्री-दर्शन बना दिया । मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह कहना चाहती हूं कि यह सूचना का युग है – एज आफ इन्फारमेशन । चारो तरफ से इन्फारमेंशन बेतहाशा आ रही है । ऐसे में सरकारी शिकंजे में जकड़ा हुआ दूरदर्शन उसकी प्रतियोगिता में ठहर नहीं पा रहा है । दूरदर्शन की विश्वसनीयता दिनों दिन गिर रही है । इसलिए यह बहुत जरूरी हो गया है कि सरकार इनडिसिजन की स्थिति से निकले और इस बिल के ऊपर कोई डिसिजन , कोई निर्णय ले । मंत्री महोदय ने अभी एक सवाल के जवाब में कहा कि 31 दिसम्बर तक निर्णय लेना संभव नहीं है । मैं आपके माध्यम से यह जानना चाहूंगी कि क्या कठिनाइयां है? क्या वे अपनी कठिनाइयों का बखान करेंगे कि 31 दिसम्बर तक निर्णय लेना क्यों नहीं संभव हो रहा है । अगर 31 दिसम्बर के बाद वे हाई कोर्ट से कोई तारीख लेना चाह रहे हैं तो क्या वे कोई नयी डेड लाइन सदन को बताएंगे कि अगर 31 दिसम्बर तक नहीं तो फलां तारीख तक वे जरूर इस पर फैसला कर लेंगे । वह नयी डेड लाइन आप क्या सेट कर रहे है? ये दोनों बातें मैं आपके माध्यम से जानना चाहती हूं ।

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Sir, I have answered all these points elaborately while answering Shri Gujral's questions.

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : मैंने तारीख जाननी चाही है ।

He did not ask about the deadline. I am asking about the deadline. Sir, the Minister has not answered about the deadline.

आप एफीडेविट फाइल करने जा रहे है कोर्ट में कि 31 दिसम्बर तक पासिबिल नहीं है । तो फिर टाइम मांग रहे होंगे – 15 दिन का, 20 दिन का, महीने का दो महीने का । यह न गुजराल साहब ने पूछा और न आपने बताया **...(व्यवधान)...**

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: I will answer it. Don't be agitated. I will answer it.

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : मैंने कठिनाइयों का बखान जानने की कोशिश की है ।

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Sir, I am going to the hon. High Court seeking extension by six months.

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : नेक्स्ट सिक्स मन्थस? मतलब गुजराल साहब की बात सच होने वाली है कि फैसला हम करेंगे प्रसार भारती पर आप नहीं करेंगे ।

श्री मोहम्मद सलीम : थैंक यू सर । फैसला चाहे यह करें या वह करें, सवाल फैसले का है । जैसे गुजराल साहब ने कहा कि सरकार की वजह से है । पांच साल

से सरकार यह कह रही थी, इसी तरीके से आंसर दे रही थी, जो आपने रिटेन आंसर दिया । इसी तरीके का आंसर आपके तीन प्रिडिंसेंसर ने इसी हाऊस में दिया है । इसमें कुछ तबदीली चाहिए , हम इस पर विचार कर रहे है, लेकिन कोई तारीख तय नहीं कर सकते । आप कोई फैसला ही नहीं लेते तो तारीख कैसे तय करेंगे क्योंकि तारीख के लिए भी एक फैसला लेना जरूरी है । असल यह बात है कि जब तक आप फैसला नहीं कर रहे , आप दूरदर्शन को, आकाशवाणी को एक राजनैतिक प्रचार के अंग के रूप में,मशीन के रूप में इस्तेमाल कर रहे हैं और वह भी दूसरों के खिलाफ डिसक्रिमिनेशन करके, सिर्फ दूसरी पोलिटिकल पार्टी के ही नहीं, दूसरी जो राज्य सरकार है उसके खिलाफ भी । इसलिए यह प्रसार भारती की जरूरत है । सबसे बड़ा हमारा राष्ट्रीयता का सवाल है कि हमारे जो राष्ट्रीय प्रचार माध्यम हैं, उसमें विश्वसनीयता घट रही है जनता की और वह विदेशी प्रचार माध्यम के ऊपर निर्भर कर रही है । मेरा प्रश्न आपके भविष्य के लिए है, देश के भविष्य को छोड़ दीजिए, अपने भविषय के लिए सोचिए । मेरा प्रश्न है, क्या आपको मालूम है कि जब आपसे पहले, प्रधान मंत्री भी छोड़ दीजिए, सूचना प्रसारण मंत्री को जिस तरह से दिलाया जाता है, क्योंकि आपके आफीसर जोन स्पेशल ड्यूटी आप पोस्टिंग करते है, न्यूज क्या क्या जाएगी, वह मंत्रालय देखती है और मंत्री जी की जब पत्नी भी देखती है उसका फैसला ऐसा होता है । के0पी0सिंह देव जब तक ये तो जैसे आपको दिखाया जाता है, वैसे ही उनको दिलाया जाता था । वह रायफल एसोसिएशन के प्रेजीडेंट भी हैं, जब कामनवेल्थ में इंडियन टीम को दो गोल्ड मैडल मिले तो वह भी नहीं दिखाया क्योंकि सिंहदेव जी अभी रायफल एसोसियेशन के प्रेसीडेंट हैं । तो मंत्रालय के निर्देश पर आप अगर उनको जबरदस्ती ठूंसते है कोई चीज़, लेकिन जब आप मंत्री नहीं रहेंगे तो सिंहदेव जी जैसी हालत आपकी भी होगी । अजीत पांजा जी को रोज दिलाया जाता था, जब वह सूचना प्रसारण मंत्री थे, लेकिन अब वह इंदिरा गांधी स्टेच में जाकर माला डाला तो कलकत्ता दूरदर्शन ने ब्लाक कांग्रेस के नेता का नाम भी लिया, लेकिन अजीत पांजा जी का नाम नहीं लिया । आप यही काम कर रहे है । अगर आपको इंडिपेंडेंट देना है, स्वायतता देना है तो वह आपके निजी स्वार्थ के लिए होगा, आपके दल के स्वार्थ के लिये होगा । सीधे उत्तर नहीं देते आप आश्वासन का, इसलिए मैं यह पूछना चाहूंगा कि कब तक दूरदर्शन की न्यूज को, आप अपने आफीसर ओन स्पेशल ड्यूटी बैठाकर, कंट्रोल करेंगे? मैं यही जानना चाहता हूं ।

S1IRI P. A. SANGMA: I must respectfully submit that what ever the hon. Member has said is only his own perception which I do not share....*(Interruptions)...As* far as time-frame is concerned, I have said that I am asking for six months more time.

Extension given to S.B.I. Officials

*25. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN:† SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure adopted by Government in the matter of granting extension in service to the officers/Chairman of the S.B.I., its associates and nationalised banks and the level at which final decision is taken in such cases;

(b) the guidelines governing such extensions in service; and

(c) the number of cases indicating the name, designation and the bank concerned where extensions have been given retrospective effect since 1.1.1996, the level at which such decisions were taken and the reasons for not issuing the orders before the actual date of superannuation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) (i) The officers of the Stat. Bank of India, its associates ant nationalised banks are governed by the rules and regulations governing the conditions of service applicable to the respective banks.

(ii) In the case of officers of State Bank of India and its associates, the extensions arc decided by the

† The Question was actually asked in the floor of the House by Shri Pasumpor Tha. Kiruttinan.